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Bursey et al.

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[54] **ELECTROCHEMICAL GENERATION OF FIELD DESORPTION EMITTERS**

[75] Inventors: **Maurice M. Bursey**, Chapel Hill, N.C.; **Deborah M. Hinton**, Champaign, Ill.; **Martin C. Sammons**, Cincinnati, Ohio; **R. Mark Wightman**, Lawrence, Kans.

[73] Assignee: **E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company**, Wilmington, Del.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **313/336**; 428/628; 428/567

[58] **Field of Search** 313/336, 182, 351; 29/198, 199, 191.2, 193.5, 193, 191.6

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Primary Examiner—Arthur J. Steiner

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An electrochemically generated field desorption emitter for use in mass spectrometry, and a process for forming such an emitter by immersing a metal support, as a first electrode, and a second electrode in an electrolytic liquid mixture having appropriate concentration of a metal compound, and applying a plurality of short duration, electrical pulses between the electrodes. The emitter so formed comprises an elongated metal support having a plurality of metal dendrites extending in a generally radially outwardly direction therefrom.

2 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures